

Service Learning Reflection

Multigenre PAPER

FOUNDATIONS of LITERATURE and COMPOSITION
MISS DETRICK



Creating my legacy: A Reflection on Tuesdays with Morrie

WHO I AM NOW... AND WHO I WANT TO BE
DUE: FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2010

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

The Importance of creating a Legacy...

For the past four weeks we have been thinking about the larger issues of living and how we all want to live our lives. We've encountered questions that ask your feelings on death, family, love, forgiveness, and even money. One of the great things that we are able to take away from these powerful discussions is the notion that we don't have to wait for the future to become the person we want to be. We can begin now! As you begin your service-learning project, I want you to think about how you can use your talents to help you become a bigger contributor to society. What type of legacy do you want to leave behind when you are gone from this world? If tomorrow were your last day on earth, what would you want people to remember about you?

consider this...

Do you ever get tired of hearing people saying negative things about teenagers? I do! According to the Josephson Institute's "Report Card on the American Youth" teens aren't on the best track. Consider these facts they collected:

- 71% of all high school students admit they cheated on an exam at least once in the past 12 months
- 92% lied to their parents in the past 12 months
- 40% of males and 30% of females say they stole something from a store in the past two months
- Nearly one in six students admit to being drunk at school during the past year
- 68% say they hit someone because they were angry in the past year

Are these the facts that you want people to know about your generation? I know as an educator that I am surrounded by young people who have the opportunities and drive to be something better than these facts suggest. You ALL are among the students of which I speak. Knowing that you have the ability to make a difference, what type of legacy will you choose to leave behind? Will you be like most of your peers and cheat, lie and steal? OR will you be a citizen who cares about others and uses their gifts and talents to serve the world? Morrie indicates to us that in order to find a meaningful life you must, "**Devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning**" (Albom 127). When will you begin?

So, what are you getting at Miss Detrick?

Your project is a personal reflection on what you have read and learned over the past weeks. It is also a plan of action. A plan of action is your proposal for how you will use your own character traits, gifts, talents, fascinations and areas of interest as assets and building blocks for creating your own legacy. You've already identified needs in your school and community, now how can you use your talents and gifts to make a difference?

1. Reflect on who you are
2. Reflect on who you want to be
3. Use the lessons learned in *Tuesdays with Morrie* to help you
4. Come up with a plan on how you can make a difference using your gifts and how you will accomplish this goal.
5. Execute your service-learning plan!
6. Reflect on the process of service-learning!

What is a multi-genre essay?

It is a collection of pieces written in a variety of genres, informed by your research or reading on a particular subject that presents one or more perspectives on a question or topic. A multi-genre paper is personal, creative, and can't be copied from another source. It involves you, as a writer, making conscious decisions about what information is important and how it should be presented to the reader.

What is genre?

A genre is a type of writing. A poem, traditional research paper, newspaper editorial, play, diary, cartoon, and billboard can all be considered different genres. Genre can be used to describe different types of music, types of theatre, types of video games, movies etc. Country, R&B, Rap, Bluegrass, Rock, Alternative etc. are genres of music. Just like these, writing and literature have genres too. Literary genres include science-fiction, biographies, fiction, non-fiction, romance, mystery etc.

What are some genres I might use?

You could write an editorial, a poem, a dialogue between characters, a letter, a debate. You could include a collage, a poster, a book, a CD cover. You will have much choice about what to include. But beware—this should not be a haphazard collage of disjointed stuff; you must connect the genres and what they represent with a central, significant theme (a thesis). Your creative efforts must be informed by solid information about the topics covered in *Tuesdays with Morrie*. This is a personal narrative focusing on the person you are now and the person you want to be.

But I've Never Done Anything Like This Before. What do I do?

As you think about *Tuesdays with Morrie*, you'll need to consider an audience or who would be interested in your topic. You need to consider what genres would be effective in communicating with this audience. In other words, what genres will "speak" to the people whom you want to reach and why? You'll need to be fully engaged in the novel and what it is trying to teach us—don't approach it as if you were on a scavenger hunt to find information to spit back in an "academic" paper, because you're not. Instead, you'll need to think about what you want to do, for whom, and how best to do that. This may be in fact an assignment that you have **yourself** in mind as an audience. You are, through this writing, going to be able to tell yourself what you want to do and WHO you want to become.

First, create or find a central theme for your paper.

I want to encourage you to choose any theme to focus on from the readings or journals we have done. In order for your many parts to be successful as a whole, you must select only one central theme to help you tie together all of your points.

Examples of themes:

- Pieces of Me (see Miss D's example)
- The World in My Hands
- Changing the World, One Small Step at a Time
- The Music of My Soul



Use of repetend

Think about your topic. What is the strongest image associated with that topic? What words could powerfully express that image? You could use those words to help you decide what should be emphasized and repeated throughout your paper. After you begin to read through your writing, circle or highlight language and images that might serve as strong **repetitions**. This again will help you tie the whole thing together. Example: I used puzzle pieces and a graph to show the different pieces creating a whole.

Repetend is something added to your multigenre paper that repeats or continues. The purpose of repetend is to create unity among the various genre pieces and to give the writer an editorial voice that the reader can easily relate to.

Because multi-genre essays are unique and non-linear, they require a lot of work from a reader. You, as a conscientious writer, do not want to let your reader get confused as they move from genre to genre. If you provide your reader with reoccurring images or phrases, or a running commentary or even a narrative or story, you will create unity that will help your reader better understand your central theme. This can be much like making sure to weave your thesis throughout a traditional essay paper. The multi-genre paper, however, offers a lot more creative possibilities. **Ways to incorporate repetend in your multi-genre web:** Include the same phrase, sentence, or passage in each genre page as a heading or somewhere else in the text. Include a description or design in each piece (written or graphic), placed strategically for easy recognition, include a running commentary from you, the writer, following or preceding each genre piece. Create a character and follow his/her reactions to pieces. Create a character involved somehow in each piece of writing--an ongoing little story, or even create a cartoon strip at the top or bottom of each genre page that comments on the ideas presented. These are just examples... find the repetend that works best for you!

You must use 8 different genres. Required genres include:

Diary entry or Letter
Poem
Selection from a Play
Obituary or Eulogy

other possible genres

Print Media: Obituary, Editorial, Letter to the Editor, Advice Column, Magazine Article

Visual with Words: Poster, Invitation, Ad, Travel Brochure, Greeting Card, Cartoon or Comic Strip (8 panes minimum)

Visual Display: Picture/Photograph, Graph, Map, Certificate, Recipe, Collage

Informational: Interview, Survey, Trivia Game, Timeline, Directions, Idea Web

Creative Writing: Monologue, Journal, Skit, Song, Poem, Short Story, Personal Narrative, Conversation, Fable, IM messages

Structured: Essay, Report, Letter, Speech, Descriptive Paragraph

considering Multiple Intelligences

Listed below are suggestions of ways to share your project using YOUR intelligences.

For example: I am a very musical person, so I would consider writing and performing a song about my service-learning.

Type of Intelligence:	Possible Genre:
Linguistic	Journal, Public Speech, Poetry, Press Release
Logical/Mathematical	Analysis of Statistics, Field-based Research, Time-line of Events, Charts or Graphs
Visual/Spatial:	Photo or video essay, sculpture, scrap-book, drawing, collage or painting
Bodily-Kinesthetic:	Construction project (build something), dance performance, perform skit or scene, theatre production
Musical:	Write/perform music that reflects themes and feelings
Interpersonal:	Create a group activity and present it to the class
Intrapersonal:	Journal, self-assessment, progress chart, learning log, poetry
Naturalist:	List of ways your project improved the planet, comparison of project to a part of nature.

Help with genres

Letter

The letter should be written as a personal letter and should include all the important details you think that person would include in a letter. To help you decide what to write about, ask yourself what person A has to say and why. Also, why did you choose this person to get the letter? In other words, the relationship you create between these two people will help you know just what to write in the letter. What does the one have to say to the other? For example... you could write a letter to Morrie or Mitch. Remember whatever you choose it must relate to your overall theme.

Obituary/Eulogy

An obituary is a newspaper account of a person's death and life. It generally includes the main events of his or her life, the person's family, and any special accomplishments from his or her life. If the person's death was "famous," there might be details of the circumstances. The audience for the obituary is the general public. A eulogy is similar to an obituary, but it is a speech instead of an article. A eulogy is given by someone who knew the person well or by someone in his or her family. The eulogy is generally more personal and the audience is all the people in attendance at the funeral or memorial service. In writing either, the main purpose is to honor the life of someone who has died. For this section, you should think about the living funeral in *Tuesdays with Morrie*. What would you want people to remember YOU for... Do you think that you would be caught up in material things like Ted Turner is in *Tuesdays with Morrie* or would people have better things to say about you like they did for Morrie? Here's your chance to reflect on your life thus far... and also what you hope to become. How will others view you and the life you lived when you die?

Monologue

A monologue is a part in a play or dramatic narrative where one character is talking alone. What he or she says represents his inner thoughts and feelings. He or she may not have an audience other than the reader or the theatre audience. In other words, the other characters in the play or narrative do not usually hear the words of the speaker. Decide what you are thinking inside. What are you feeling? What would you tell the world if it would listen? Also, set the scene. Before the monologue, in a short paragraph, tell who you are, where you are (set the scene visually), and tell what has happened in your life so far (very briefly: like "this is after such and such" or "before the blank happens." If you just write from your heart, you will probably know what you want to say.

News Article

A good news article answers the basic questions: who, what, when, where, why and how. It also uses direct quotes from people who were there and witnessed an event or who know something about the event. A good reporter will report both or all sides of the story. Use a real news story as your model for writing this story. Create a headline for the story also. For this assignment, focus on one event. To get more examples, read the stories on the front pages of newspapers to get the sound and structure of a common news story. (News is on the front page. Other types of articles are found elsewhere in the newspaper).

Poem

A poem for two voices can be an interesting thing to try for this assignment. Consider the person you are talking to the person you want to become. What might one person have to say to the other? Other types of poetry lend themselves well to this assignment too... Remember, poetry does NOT have to rhyme!

Paper requirements



TITLE PAGE- (this page should look nice and reflect the theme of your paper... use pictures and creativity to make it appealing to the reader... it should draw the reader in!)

INCLUDE:

Title, Your name, Due date, Book title, Teacher name, Course name

OPENING PREFACE- (This page should be written as a formal letter. Its main purpose is to introduce your topic and greet the reader. You will need to give background information about your project. (Ex. Dear Reader: I wrote the following paper on...)

BODY- Eight genre pieces (all different). This is where multi-genre happens. Some of the pieces will be written, some visual, and some a combination. Be sure to spend time making your paper **LOOK** appealing to the reader. Be sure to join the separate pieces by using **theme** as a unifying device. Be sure to use repetend!

EPILOGUE- This is your conclusion. You will need to explain why and how you wrote each piece of the body of your paper. This will look like a list... (1. Found poem- I began my paper with a found poem because... 2. Cartoon- I thought the following cartoon showed... 3... etc.) This will help the reader to think about your paper and why it is structured the way it is. This is where you tie everything together that you think the reader might miss!

Multi-genre Rubric Total of 200 points



Title Page (5 points)

Opening Preface: introduces the topic of the paper (5 points)

Eight genres are used (5 points)

Creativity: in both the selection of genres and within the genres themselves (15 points)

Meaning: Do the genres work together to support one overall meaning? Does everything in the paper work to support the central focus? Is this focus clear? Is it meaningful? Do you use repetend to make sure your theme is clear? (30 points)

Quality counts: genres are obviously not first drafts but have been revised (15 points)

Epilogue: clearly explains paper and selection of genres to the reader (10 points)

Evokes a personal response from the reader: are the details appropriate to the genre and to the paper and are they carefully selected? Do they evoke imagery in the reader? (15 points)

Formatted attractively: (10 points)

Grammar, punctuation, and spelling are correct: (10 points)

Paper is presented in a logical order: The piece should display unity and purpose and create a tension that makes the reader want to read on. (10 points)

The author uses time productively, confers with self, and proofreads: (10 points)

Service Log: (20 points)

Legacy Journal: (40 points)

TOTAL: 200 POINTS

Service Requirements and Log

You have created a service project action plan that utilizes your talents. Now you must implement your plan!

Time Requirement: A minimum of 4 service hours is required for this project.

Project Proposal: You must write a final project proposal and get it approved by Miss D before beginning your service project. This is due by Friday, February 12th.

Time Log: You must log the start and end time of your service and the date served. Your service must be overseen by an adult and you must get an adult's signature verifying your service.

[illegible]